

ANXIETY IS PASSED AWAY

German People Celebrate Christmas in True Old-Fashioned Style.

MANY GIFTS SENT TO PALACE

Emperor Greatly Touched by Show of His People's Affection for Him.

BY MALCOLM CLARKE.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch, Copyright, 1908.)

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—All anxiety over the state of health of the Kaiser seems to have passed and the people of this city celebrated the Christmas holidays in real old-fashioned German manner.

All the members of the imperial family were present gathered around the magnificent Christmas tree, which the Emperor, as usual, had trimmed with his own hands.

The Kaiser, who for several reasons

models out of their own pocket. If Andrew Carnegie, therefore, should have a few hundred thousand marks to spare, he would have a splendid chance of gaining for himself a cross of the Red Eagle or maybe even the black.

Continue to Rave.

Though a certain clique of Wagner enthusiasts continue to rave over what they call the "theater of the sacred opera of Parsifal," which was successfully produced at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, yesterday, there is considerable indignation here over the insults which have been heaped, not only upon the head of Manager Corbell, but also upon the whole music-loving public of New York.

Even the Frankfurter Zeitung, a paper which has always protested against the production of the opera in New York, in a current issue wrote: "What right has the Wagner Association to insult the lovers of good music in New York, who buy tickets for the performance at prices which very few Germans would think of paying?"

"That authority has the associations to state that Americans lack the true understanding of Wagner's art and never will understand it."

"Their protest is not only unworthy of Germans and insulting to Americans, but it is also stupid."

"The fact that a few more or less narrow minded ministers in New York have pronounced the work of the great master blasphemous, proves nothing."

"Germany should feel proud of the great success of German artists and German music on the other side of the Atlantic."

Austrian Emperor.

The Emperor of Austria, is quite a

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DREAM OF GIBRALTAR

Frenchman Declares It Will be Easy to Take It Away From British.

QUEEN DENIES THE STORY

Marguerite of Italy Says She Has No Idea Whatever of Marrying Again.

BY PAUL VILLIERS.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch, Copyright, 1908.)

PARIS, Dec. 26.—In spite of the holidays, the rumors of war continue to fly thick and fast, and the general impression is that the terrible conflict between Russia and Japan cannot be delayed much longer, and that when it comes it will give the impulse to a war in which practically all the Powers of Europe will be involved.

At the navy yards at Toulon a force of many thousands men are working night and day, and in a month the whole French navy will be ready to meet any emergency.

Though the friendship between France and England is apparently gaining strength every day, there is an undercurrent of uneasiness, and occasionally words or acts of the French Government show that even in official circles the possibility of a conflict with Great Britain as the ally of Japan is being considered.

The words of the Minister of Marine, M. Camille Pelletan, at a recent dinner have caused no little discussion.

Speaking of the English stronghold which commands the gate to the Mediterranean, the Minister said: "Oh Gibraltar! Why nothing would be easier than to take it from the British. It is a fortress 'pour rien' (to laugh at), and its equipment is altogether antiquated."

The news has also leaked out here that a large French firm engaged in the manufacturing of automobiles and swift launches is busy finishing a number of very fast submarine boats for the government of the Czar.

These boats are said to be constructed so that they may be taken apart in sections no longer than an ordinary railroad car, and Russia, who is extremely worried at the inferiority of her navy in the Far East to that of Japan, intends to transport them overland via the Siberian Railroad to Port Arthur.

When these invisible machines of war shall have arrived in the East the Russian Viceroy Alexieff hopes to be strong enough to meet any attack of the navy of the Mikado.

The intends then as far as possible to avoid engaging the regular Russian ships in battle with the Japanese fleet until a sufficient number of these shall have

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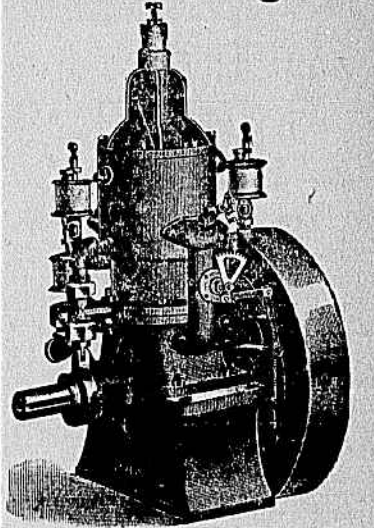
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will be sentenced to death immediately after the holidays.

American Made Dolls.

There is a big factory in the United States, now in New Jersey, which makes dolls; very perfect and durable ones, of sheet steel. They are light and strong, so strong they cannot be broken even if stepped on. Their smile is the kind which will not come off, for their complexion is of baked enamel, not to be rubbed or scraped away. They are startlingly life-like, these babies from New Jersey, for they have ball and socket joints, even for their ankles, and strike all sorts of childish attitudes. The hands can be fitted with gloves, and the eyes are removable, to accommodate little girls who have decided preferences as to brown eyes or

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Her Own Opinion. Miss Askew—So your marriage is put off? Miss Crummy—Yes, papa is not at all satisfied with his position; mamma doesn't like his family connections, auntie thinks he is too careless in his dress, and I think—

Miss Askew—Yes, what do you think? Miss Crummy—I think I ought to wait till he asks me.—Town and Country.

The murdered American, who was an old schoolmate of Barasso, arrived here late at night and was well received by Barasso, who opened a bottle of old Chianti to celebrate the return of his boyhood friend.

The returning emigrant confidentially told his friend that he had made a fortune in New York and showed him a roll of 1,000 franc bills which he had in an inside pocket.

Soon after he rose to leave for the village and, the night being dark, Barasso lent him an old lantern.

A short distance from the inn he was met by two carabinieri, whom he told of his good fortune, at the same time refusing their offer of escorting him to the village.

A few minutes afterward the carabinieri heard a shot and, hastily returning, they found the American lying dead with a bullet in his heart.

They hurried to Barasso's tavern and, not finding him in, sat down to wait. Shortly after he returned greatly agitated and, seeing the officers of the law, turned to run away, but was knocked down and arrested.

When the roll of money was found on him he confessed that he had murdered his boyhood friend.



ONE OF THE YOUNGEST AND THE TWO OLDEST ROYAL TUNNERS

been blown up by the submarines to wipe out the difference in strength between the Russian and Japanese naval forces.

Denies the Report.

Queen Margherita of Italy, the widow of the assassinated King Umberto, most emphatically denies that there is even a particle of truth in the report of her recentmorganatic marriage to a simple engineer.

She says that though she has given up her first idea of entering a convent, she has absolutely no intention of marrying again.

She has made it the object of her life to effect a reconciliation between the Quirinal and the Vatican and is very hopeful of accomplishing this, the present Pope being an ardent admirer of her son, King Victor Emmanuel, who on his side has an equally strong admiration for the personal character of the new Pontiff.

There is, however, a circle of influential ecclesiastics around the Pope who will be satisfied with nothing less than the restoration of the temporal power of the Pope and who are trying to thwart the plans of the Dowager Queen.

In spite of this it is by no means sure that King Victor Emmanuel may not make his first step by personally congratulating Plus X. on New Year's Day, and the Pope will give him a hearty reception, thereby ending the long conflict between the Church and the Italian Government.

It is positively known that Queen Margherita has been corresponding with the Pope and that she in the beginning of next year will go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and with the consent of the Italian Government over the Christians in the Orient.

She may even leave during this month. On the return trip she will travel through Egypt and will be present at the opening of the large hospital built at Cairo in memory of King Umberto.

Valuable Find.

The magnificent museum of antiquities at Louvre, which contains the largest archeological collection in the world, has during the last month received a number of exceedingly interesting statues and tablets from ancient Chaldaea, found by a French expedition of scientific explorers, who under the direction of Captain Cros are examining the ruins at Tlo.

The task of searching the remains of these old buildings was begun years ago by M. de Sarzeo, who, however, died before he could finish his work.

A recent letter from Captain Cros, at

There will be no committee, no minutes, and even the governor will resign only, as long as he can retain his pre-eminence."

In its monthly meetings the society will leave the conventional round and square dances of the fashionable ballroom severely alone and its members will devote themselves to the revival of the picturesque ancient dances of various lands, such as Sir Roger de Coverley, the saraband and the faradole.

The stipulation as to "beautiful and simple dresses" was only asserted by the first meeting by the lady members, who mostly appeared in flowing white robes of classic design, the men lacking courage to depart from their ordinary attire.

One of the most prominent and active members is Mr. Walter D. Moses, the famous decorative designer and illustrator, and a great proportion of the members are also art workers or students.

Interesting Engagement.

A very interesting engagement has just been announced—that of Mr. Bertram Brooke and Miss Gladys Palmer. Mr. Brooke is the son of the reigning Rajah of Sarawak, while his fiancée is a great heiress, being the only child of Mr. Walter Palmer, M. P., of the world-famous biscuit firm, Huntley & Palmer.

The betrothal comes as a kind of centenary celebration of the birth of James Brooke, first Rajah of Sarawak, who, by his civilizing labors in Borneo, won an English knighthood, and, as well as almost royal titles in Borneo.

Miss Palmer is one of the brightest and most beautiful girls in London society. She is one of the ornaments of the best and most cultivated set, and her position by Frank J. Moses, in this year's Academy, was one of the pictures of the year.

A Lion Story.

A thrilling and almost incredible lion story, the truth of which is vouched for by a magistrate's certificate, is told by Game Ranger Woluter, of the Transvaal Government Game Reserve.

He was riding along a Kaffir path one evening, when he met a lion, which sprang at him.

By turning his horse sharply aside Woluter avoided the lion's paw, but he was unseated, and saw another lion coming at him from the opposite direction.

The first lion went in pursuit of the horse, while the newcomer picked up Woluter by the shoulder and trotted off, purring loudly.

Woluter says his sensations were the reverse of Livingston's in a similar situation and that he suffered terribly, both physically and mentally. After being carried thus for about two hundred yards the unfortunate man suddenly thought of the sheath knife he carried in his belt.

The lion stopped under a large tree, and Woluter then managed to give him two left-handed stabs in the right side.

The lion instantly dropped his prey, and it was afterward proved that both blows had reached the heart.

Believing in the power of the human voice, Woluter hurled insult and unprintable epithets at the beast, which soon walked away, feebly growling, and lay down and died.

It was an old lion, and its stomach was absolutely empty.



THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE

has been very dissatisfied with the conduct of the Crown Prince, whom he recently sentenced to three days' arrest. "In quarters," on Christmas morning called that young man into his private library, and is said to have given him a very severe reprimand, reminding him that he must never forget that the youth of Germany looks to the imperial family to set a good example in everything and that the time has passed when his boyish escapades could be easily forgiven and overlooked.

At the Christmas dinner only the members of the family were present.

The number of gifts received at the palace this year has been unusually large, quite a number of letters and presents arriving from Germans in humbler walks of life.

The Kaiser is exceedingly touched by the many testimonials received of the love of his subjects.

The poor of Potsdam and Berlin were not forgotten by the Kaiser, and many cases investigated, and many families were indebted to him for their Christmas dinner. It is said, however, that there is less poverty in Berlin this year than for many years.

Optimistic View.

Though there is no lack of sensational rumors of the impending war between Russia and Japan, Germans as a whole take a rather optimistic view of the situation in the Far East.

In this they are confirmed by the Government and the official press, which has allowed the rumor to gain strength that an understanding between Russia and Germany was arrived at during the recent meeting of the Kaiser and Czar Nicholas at Wiesbaden, whereby Germany should use all her influence with Japan to prevent a war.

It is known here that the Czar, who is said to be in very poor health, is very much opposed to a war between the two countries, and personally would much prefer to have all disputes between Russia and Japan referred to the Court of Arbitration at The Hague; but he is being opposed by the strong party at court which hopes to divert the attention of the Russian people from their inner disturbances by a war which would be rather popular.

This party is even said to hope for a few disasters to Russian forces in the Far East, hoping that the love of country would gather all Russians around the Government of the Czar.

Significant of the optimistic view taken here is the fact that there has been very little selling of Russian securities and practically no drop in prices.

This also is said to be due to the Kaiser personally, and recalls an anecdote which is told of his imperial grandfather, Wilhelm der Grosse.

When, in 1875, the relations between Germany and Russia were becoming exceedingly strained and Prince Bismarck was waging war upon Russian securities, the banker of the Kaiser, Privy Councillor Cohen, came to Wilhelm I. and said: "Your Majesty, I would advise you to sell your Russian bonds; they are falling very rapidly, and if we should have war they will be practically worthless." The Kaiser indignantly answered: "Do not worry, Councillor. On the sofa where you are sitting now Alexander II. of Russia sat two weeks ago, and he and I made up our minds that there is not going to be any war, so I will keep my Russians."

Money for Art.

The Kaiser has had a conference with the Minister of Education in regard to making provision for a large amount of money to be put in trust for the benefit of the Academy of Art at Munich, declaring that the present state of affairs is a disgrace to Germany, and that if the kingdom of Bavaria would not provide for the maintenance of the famous art school, the Reichstag ought to appropriate an amount for this purpose.

The remarks of the Kaiser were caused by the fact that the academy has been forced to partly close because of lack of money with which to pay models.

Some of the professors have paid the

PERSONALIA ON SPENCER

BL PAUL LAMBETH.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch, Copyright, 1908.)

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Personalities on Her- Spencer are naturally plentiful just now.

The most surprising fact connected with the great philosopher's boyhood is that he was inattentive and idle, and fond of play, fishing, bird-nesting and country rambles.

His father encouraged him in these wayward courses, only insisting that he should devote some portion of his time to the study of accurate drawing, probably with a view to the boy's following, as he afterward did, the profession of an engineer.

Another strange thing about Spencer was that he was never a voluminous reader, and knew hardly anything of foreign languages.

He was wont to say that if he were to read as much as other people he would know as little as they.

The sage remained a bachelor all his life; he was, in fact, a specimen of that rare animal, the woman-hater—at least as regards the generality of the sex; his ideal woman was set on an almost inaccessible pinnacle.

In society Spencer was a great talker, prone to be argumentative, and taking delight in the discomfiture of his victim.

In all little matters he was fidgety, as became an old bachelor, and rather inclined to be brusque in his manner.

In his personal habits he was simple to the point of asceticism.

He constantly refused the numerous honors and distinctions proffered by the universities and other institutions.

The literary world is anxiously waiting the publication of Spencer's autobiography, written some years ago, which is understood to be practically ready for the press.

The Dancers.

England having several reasons at present for a severe attack of the blues, some of the inhabitants have determined to do something to dispel them, and a society has been formed, under the name of "The Dancers," for the vanquishing of "The Devil Solemnity."

The members, who already number fifty, are to meet once a month, in beautiful and simple dresses, to dance, sing, chat, talk, and dedicate themselves to light-headedness.